



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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01/20/2011 Minutes

Approved

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
JANUARY 20, 2011 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Marc Breslow, Shelly Dein, Mary Gilbert, David Haas, Todd Hay, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton, Scott Samenfeld, Colleen Spindler-Renta, Mike Wilson, Kavita ____.

Facilitator: Charlotte Milan **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: Wed. Feb. 16, Thurs. Mar. 17, Wed. Apr. 20, Thurs. May 19,
 Wed. June 15, Thurs. July 21, Wed. Aug. 17, Thurs. Sept. 15, Wed. Oct. 19,
 Thurs. Nov. 17, Wed. Dec. 14; 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

- The **minutes** of the September meeting were accepted as presented.

Announcements:

- Brucie is looking for a list of SA accomplishments for the Vision 2020 annual report.
- Brookline is holding a Climate Week January 23-30; it has a website.
- **EcoFest** March 26 will be focused on water. Tables will be \$50 for businesses, free for nonprofits. The speaker will be Bill Reed from Regenerative Design, a global thinker.

There will be an exhibit of environmental art by Gail McCormick and her daughter on the second floor of Town Hall.

- The **film** series on water is in the works; the search is on for suitable venues.
- Ryan wrote a statement supporting **PAYT**. Charlotte submitted a warrant article to allow establishment of fines for dumping trash.
- The **rain garden** proposed for Magnolia Field (SA wrote the grant to support it) turns out to be not feasible because the site is only 4 ft. above sea level; an alternate site is being sought.
- We have the **Library** table reserved for an exhibit in April.

Reports:

- The **Compost** Committee is working on ways to get either kitchen waste or waste from stores and restaurants composted. The stumbling block is that disposing of the waste as trash is cheaper, but food waste is wet and costs more to incinerate than dry trash. The Town has no space for a municipal compost pile. A pilot program would represent a cost for participants, but an established program could become revenue neutral. The committee has drafted a questionnaire and given it to DPW for input.
- The **Energy Working** Group did not meet in December but Shelly and Todd are helping it to track municipal energy use.
- The Steering Committee met and worked on **messaging** (how SA presents itself, how to explain SA concisely to outsiders.). Meeting notes are in the works for the March meeting.
- **Bus shelters:** The list of proposed locations has gone to the MBTA. The project may be slowed down by the economy (less demand for advertising space).

- Marc reported that the state **Clean Energy and Climate Plan** was released December 29, 2010. It calls for reducing GHG emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 — the highest reduction goal set by any state. Information is available at mass.gov/dep. The plan includes an idea for “PAYD” (pay as you drive) automobile insurance.
- **MCAN** is promoting home energy checks; one can sign up for an energy audit on its website.
- Mary reported on a project called “**Transition Town**” which started in England to consider what social and civic institutions will be needed to cope with the coming downturn in the availability of oil. Should Arlington have such a discussion? How to get people involved?